

California Energy Commission

California's School Bus Program Successes and Challenges

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Pat Perez
Transportation Technology &
Fuels Office**



Program Objective

- Support the National Energy Policy Act of 1992, which requires school districts to purchase alternative fuel vehicles
- Promote new clean-fuel vehicle industries, develop fueling infrastructure throughout California, and educate school districts about alternative fuels
- Increase market acceptance of new transportation technologies
- Spur the development of new alternative fueled engines

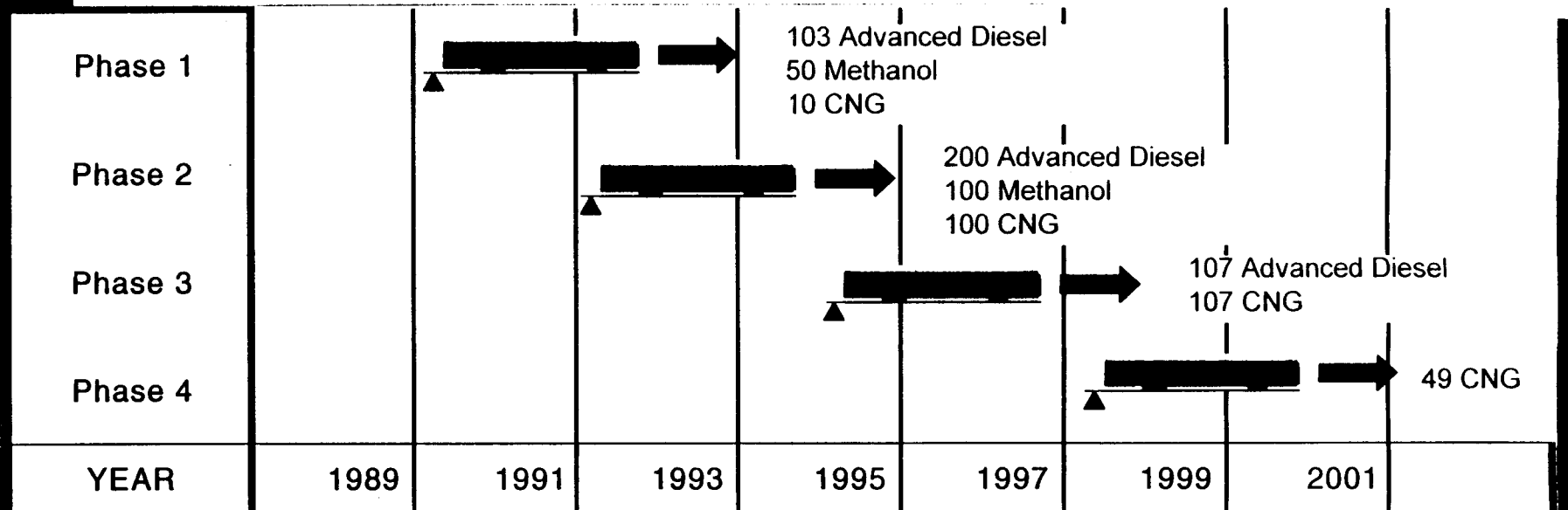


Challenges Faced

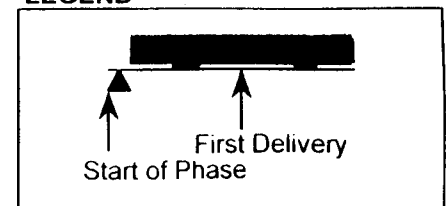
- Operational Challenges
 - General Reliability and Durability
- Challenges with Methanol
 - Methanol Compatibility Issues
- Challenges with Compressed Natural Gas
- Life-Cycle Costs
 - Methanol
 - Compressed Natural Gas



School Bus Introduction



LEGEND



School Bus Program Participants



Lessons Learned

- Developing a convenient fueling infrastructure encourages industry to develop a more complete line of alternative fueled engines
- With the successful development of cleaner diesel and natural gas engines, school transportation officials are encouraged to consider these purchases when modernizing their fleets
- Use of alternative fuels, especially in school fleets, are now being more readily accepted



Program Successes

- 860 pre-1977 buses were taken out of service
 - There are still approximately 700 pre-1977 buses still in service which need replacement
- Operate with improved energy efficiency, and produce fewer adverse air emissions
- Industry has moved forward to develop alternative fuel technologies
- California's heightened consciousness regarding the benefits and utility of alternative bus program



For More Information.....

Call Transportation Technology
and Fuels Office at:
(916) 654-4634

or visit our Website at:
www.energy.ca.gov

